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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Good afternoon to everyone and I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer and hopefully the heatwave that was promised for this weekend making this afternoon a great day for rugby!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Olympic Legacy Park, the home of Sheffield Eagles Rugby League Football club, Leigh Centurions with their CEO Derek Beaumont, directors, their back-room staff, players and of course their guests and spectators.

The Centurions are going great guns in the division and after playing Dewsbury at Dewsbury last weekend where they did not allow them to score any points will be flying high this weekend.

They will be doing all they can to repeat that performance and we must be on the top of our game to keep them out. They are a well drilled team and coached extremely well.

Last weekend we played Rochdale Hornets at the Olympic Legacy Park and for the first 25 minutes they had a good dig at us we did however pick up our game after the break and looked a great deal better than we did in the first half.

Because of printing deadlines I am writing this article on Wednesday morning as we play Doncaster Rovers in the 1895 cup. We are playing the game at Featherstone Rovers ground as the Keepmoat is being reseeded.

We must not underestimate the Dons as they will be a determined team doing their utmost to turn us over and then proceed to the



semi-finals of the cup. Whereas, with, tonight's game we could be only two games away from playing at Wembley.

I keep getting asked where we are up to with regard to the Olympic Legacy park and why there is no information as to when the work to complete the park into a stadium .

I can inform you that there is a great deal going on in the background to bring the Olympic Park into a stadium and as soon as we are aware of dates etc. I will let you all know.

I would like to request that all our supporters remind all the supporters who since we have been out of the City have stopped attending our games that we need them back and we would love to see them all back supporting and cheering on the Eagles.

Can I thank all the volunteers for everything they do for the club, the loyal band of spectators and if you know anyone who wishes to help, get involved or wants to come along to enjoy what is the greatest team game in the world, please encourage them.

May I also take this opportunity to firstly thank all our spectators who turn out in all weathers to give their support to the team and let us have a great year together both on and off the field.

Enjoy the game

Very Best Regards

Chairman - Chris Noble MBE



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TUBBY TALK

Programme deadlines dictate that I am speaking prior to Wednesday night, therefore I cannot comment on the 1895 Cup clash with Doncaster.

I can reflect though on our victory over Rochdale which did leave me with mixed feelings after the game.

First and foremost, a win is a win and it has certainly helped bunch the table together ahead of a crucial game today.

Whilst I was pleased to make it back-to-back wins in the league, I was less impressed with the performance.

I did feel it took the gloss off what was a terrific performance and result at Batley the week before, and I was straight with the players after the game when I told them I was disappointed.

No disrespect to Rochdale, but if we repeat that kind of performance against sides like Leigh, then we will come unstuck.

The lads know that and we are determined to be better ahead of the visit of the Centurions this afternoon.

The games are coming thick and fast again, so we have had to be careful in our team selection to ensure everyone is in good nick ahead of today.

You will have seen that we have recalled Rory Dixon from his loan spell with Hunslet, whilst we also took the opportunity to rotate during the game with Rochdale to give the likes of Anthony Thackeray, Pat Walker and James Davey some down time.

We'll have a look at the lads during the latter end of the week and decide on a team that we feel will give us the best



possible chance of beating a very strong Leigh side today.

You will have noticed earlier this week the signing of James Thornton for the rest of the season. I'm delighted that we've secured James signature, he's a great young player and hungry to work his way into the team.

We still have our previous encounter with Leigh fresh in our minds, where I thought we played really well before losing our way in the final 10 minutes. We are determined to put that right this afternoon.

I'd like to welcome everyone connected with Leigh to the OLP this afternoon, and thanks again for your magnificent support.

Enjoy the game.

Tubbs

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COMMERCIAL CORNER

As always, just looking back to our last Home Game vs Toronto I would like to thank Alex Watkinson from Taylor & Emmet Solicitors Picture are our sponsors presenting the Man of The Match award to James Meadows.

Match sponsors are essential to the club to enable us to provide a match day experience to our corporate guests and other hospitality guests who may have up graded their season tickets.

The offering we have a great given the situation we are in and we receive a lot of positive feedback from you guests and corporate partners. The feedback is not only positive about the day but also the pre and post-match engagement.

To go through our match day experience. Arrival is around 1.30pm for a Sunday game and 6.15pm for a Friday evening game. Following a welcome from myself or Andy Tyers, we serve a 2 course meal which, if anyone has eaten in The Library, is exceptional! We then welcome and players who are not in the 17 man squad



for the game and get any updates from Inside the Camp. Mark Aston then give us his team news and his thoughts on the game before we make our way over to The OLP to watch the match, and hopefully a win! After the game welcome everyone back To the Library for the Man of The Match presentations.

If you would like to upgrade your ticket for any forthcoming games, please drop me an email. We also welcomed over 100 people to our quarterly business lunch at Genting club on Friday. These are always a special event with a good time had by all, but most importantly, business being done between our guests. A big thank you to Karl Hodson and Helen Serginson from Network King for all their support.

If you who would like to attend our next event in September or would be interested in getting involved with us on a commercial basis, please ask them to get in contact.

As always, thank you for your support and Enjoy the game.

Commercial Director - Mark Hannigan





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FROM THE OFFICE



I write this at just gone 11pm after returning from what was a nail-biting last gasp victory at Featherstone against Doncaster on Friday night.

Apologies to all the other contributors to today's programme but once I've finished writing this, the programme will be complete and straight off to the printers! It was a weird feeling after victory tonight, the jubilation from the great band of supporters who made the journey was great to see and in some ways I wish I was back on the terraces cheering the lads on as I did when I was at university some 7-8 years ago!

There would be a lot of less stress and annoyance at the performance. The team are much better than that display and sure they will pick up for today. Now with a semi-final and a potential of playing at Wembley, my role includes doing a lot of 'pre-planning' for that eventuality.

Both finalists will have to book their own accommodation, travel etc. It may seem relatively easy but with hotels filling quick

and fast and needs of the team are above and beyond just a bed + breakfast (meeting room, pre-match meals etc.) so can get complicated but hopefully come the end of July it will be complication that will be welcomed!

As soon as we have details on the 1895 Cup Semi Final, they will be released, and tickets will be go on sale, it would be fantastic to get a great crowd, especially if we are at home here at the Olympic Legacy Park.

Turning to the Olympic Legacy Park, sadly I don't have any further updates to provide on the construction of the stadium. Hopefully now other matters such as the high court case relating to Sheffield United has concluded, things will begin to progress. I am not privy to information, but discussions continue between the club, Scarborough Group and Sheffield City Council. We need the stadium; it will happen and please bear with us until that point. As always, once we know more, you will too.

Looking ahead to this afternoon's clash, it will be a difficult encounter no doubt but hopefully as entertaining as our previous clash at the Leigh Sports Village where credit to the Centurions, they rallied late on to secure a last-minute victory in what was a try-fest.

Bradley Knowles, James Davey & Pat Moran all who were rested on Wednesday night should be back into contention for today's clash and a victory could see the Eagles move back into one of the all important top five play-off spots as the business end of the season fast approaches! Enjoy the action and see you back here next Friday for the visit of York.

General Manager - Liam Claffey



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STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Heading into the Leigh game is another interesting one for us.

We're back on the 3 games in 9 days scenario with the 1895 Cup mid-week, and, although a winning performance, not a particularly strong showing. So what does this mean for us from a performance perspective and our approach?

Firstly, we must look again at what we need to do to motivate the players, and what they need to do to motivate themselves. From a coaching perspective, although the Rochdale game wasn't a full team performance like when we took on Batley, it was still a win. At the end of



the day when it comes to league position a win is a win, two points in the bag and move on. The points against has dented our points difference a little, but not the end of the world.

So, then we have to look at psychologically how the guys will react. We've got the opportunity to pick up a little bit of confidence again mid-week vs Doncaster and take that into the weekend vs Leigh.

Personally, I don't imagine we will have much issue motivating the players for the Leigh game. It's a higher standard, a tougher challenge than what we've faced in Rochdale and Doncaster, and that's something that the players should be relishing.

Our aim as a performance staff is to harness that and find a way to use it to bring that all round performance we've been missing probably since Toulouse at Easter, but saw quite a bit of vs Batley.

It's a tough ask as Leigh are a good side and always challenge us, and it's followed up with York next Friday. But, I think we can do it.

The key components from my perspective would be managing the niggles the players will have from the volume of games, manage the energy levels and manage key players.

That way we can look to go into this game with the maximum potential possible and send a message about where we belong in the league, back in that top 5 and those playoff discussions!

Player Performance Manager - Simon Vardy





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GARETH WALKER

The Betfred Championship relegation battle is likely to have a few twists and turns yet, with the form of Barrow Raiders throwing an extra dimension into the scramble.

Paul Crarey's side head into this weekend's clash with Toulouse having won three of their last four league matches, dragging them back onto terms with 12th placed Dewsbury and just a point behind Swinton and Widnes.

Bottom club Rochdale start the weekend seven points from safety ahead of a must-win match against the Lions that probably represents their last chance to try and save themselves.

But above them there is now five teams separated by just three points, up to ninth-placed Batley Bulldogs.

The Vikings' position is something of a falsity, given that they have won 11 matches this season and had 12 points deducted for entering administration.

But Kieron Purtill's side will be fully aware they still need to chalk up the victories required to survive, and Barrow's resurgence has put a bit more pressure on everybody.

It started with a thumping home win over Rochdale that restored some confidence, and after defeat at Purtill's Widnes, they have produced superb wins over Halifax and Featherstone.

The away win at Rovers on Sunday was particularly impressive given the form of the opposition, who were swept aside in the second half by Paul Crarey's side in a 38-16 win.

The experienced and popular Crarey has always maintained his belief in his squad despite one of the toughest

runs with injuries in the competition.

The club has also stuck firm to its stance of not using dual registration despite most of the clubs around them utilising it, and that faith now appears to be paying off.

Papua New Guinean pair Wartovo Puara and Stargroth Amean have been outstanding of late, while local fullback Luke Cresswell scored a hat-trick at Featherstone.

In Jamie Dallimore they have a halfback who knows how to win at this level, and they have a host of experienced forwards that are helping to lay a platform.

The board has shown a willingness to back Crarey as well, bringing in new signings that could be crucial for the run-in, in halfback Ben White and back row or centre Liam Paisley.

There's plenty of rugby still to be played in a battle that could go right down to the wire - but Barrow and Crarey have certainly given themselves a fighting chance now.



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LATEST NEWS

Sheffield Eagles are pleased to announce the signing James Thornton with immediate effect.

Thornton, 23, goes straight into contention for tonight's 1895 Cup Quarter Final against Doncaster, subject to passing RFL Medical protocol.

He impressed in 2018 for Hemel Stags in Betfred League One and his excellent form for them resulted in Featherstone Rovers securing his signature in June of last year.

The forward made his debut for Rovers in their 60-4 victory over Swinton Lions in July but suffered a season-ending ACL injury after that appearance.

Speaking of the signing, Eagles Head Coach Mark Aston said, "I'm delighted we've been able to bring James into the squad."

"We are a little light in the forward pack, and he will provide a further option as we head towards the business end of the season."

"He has had a long, tough recovery and credit to him, he's has listened to the advice we've given him and he's knuckled down and worked hard to get back."

"Credit to Jack Howieson (Head Coach of Hemel in 2018), he recommended James highly to me and it will be good to get him into training with the boys and into our system."

Of joining the Eagles, Thornton added; "I'm really happy to be back. I've had to work hard and realise to be patient during my recovery period."

Some weeks I felt like I was making great stride and others none, it's been a long and testing process, both physically and mentally.

I know quite a few of the boys at the club so I know the standards that are required, what it will take to break into the squad and how hard I'll have to work to try and get that.

"I'd like to thank the medical and backroom staff at the Eagles for the help and advice they have given me, they've been great getting me to where I am today.

"I can't wait to lace the boots back up and get out there on the field again!"

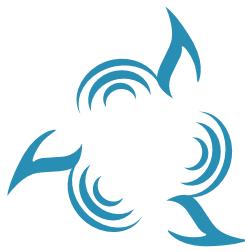
Thornton joins the club until the end of the 2019 season.



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11

Brad Knowles



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BRADLEY KNOWLES

DF: Brad, we come into this game after beating Rochdale last Friday. How important was it to back up the win against Batley?

BK: I think it was big for us. We needed to do what we did against Batley and take it as a week-by-week thing. We had to defend hard and our attack would come off that. I think us forwards led from the front and laid the platform. It was a more of a defensive win that got us to where we needed to be.

DF: It was another strong second half performance, similar to the game against the Bulldogs. We need to be on form for the full 80 against a team like the Centurions don't we?

BK: What we have said is that there's always going to be a patch where they get a good spell and we have to weather that.

We've got to be smart in our processes and obviously if they're building tempo, we have to slow them down.

If we're building tempo, they'll try to slow us down. We have to be smart in the way we do things but we can't afford to do what we have been doing against the so-called lesser teams. As soon as we rein that stuff in, we'll be tough to beat.

DF: Despite the performance, we still edged towards the 50-point mark against Rochdale. I guess that shows the quality we have going forward?

BK: We can score points against anybody



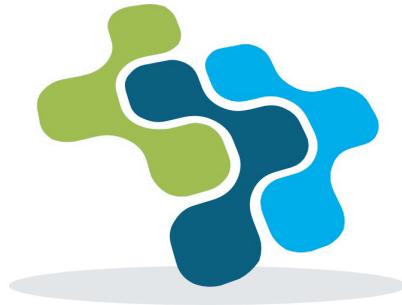
to be honest. If we're on it in attack, we can score those sort of points. It's disappointing letting 24 points in and that's what we've all said.

We put ourselves under lots of pressure with unforced errors and silly penalties but a win is a win.

DF: How important have the Broncos lads and Pat Moran been in recent months? All of them seem to have settled well?

BK: They've all come in and done a job. Pat has been outstanding, Benny Hellewell is always 100%.

Oggy (Jacob Ogden) comes in and has a dig, Hindy (Dan Hindmarsh) was solid. Meadows has done well for us and Tubbs has tried to get them buying into what we're doing.



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BRADLEY KNOWLES

DF: Of course we will have played Doncaster by the time the programme has gone to print. With not having a big squad, it's going to be another tough turnaround for us as well as Leigh

BK: It's not ideal playing midweek but we came in and did it tough on Sunday after our poor performance on Friday. We have got to manage our recovery well, be smart with ourselves and our bodies and hopefully if we get a decent win against Donny then Tubbs will go easy on us on Friday - that's all we can hope for really!

DF: Obviously our last game against Leigh ended in a bit of heartbreak after playing so well throughout the match. Is that something which will be put to the back of the lads' minds or will they look back on that previous game heading into this one?

BK: No, we have to go week-by-week and we know what Leigh are about and what we need to do. They're not particularly our worry, it's ourselves. If we worry about ourselves and concentrate on our standards, I think everything will fall into place. It will be a good game and a tough game but the worry is on ourselves and not Leigh.

DF: You've been an ever-present throughout this campaign. I'm sure these are the games you love to be a part of, against a big team with a strong set of forwards?

BK: They are big lads and I know a few of the lads there as well which makes it a bit of an extra competition. Duffy used to coach me last year and that bit of competition gives it a bit of extra flavour as you always like to get one over on your mates!

Dan Fowler was speaking with Brad Knowles





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GETTING TO KNOW

Tightest Player?

James Davey, tighter than cramp! (Appears quite a lot in this section does Davey...)

Favourite Actor?

I've got three.. Liam Neeson, Tom Hanks and Adam Sandler

Best Stadium?

One of the higher level grounds I've played at is Catalans Dragons (Stade Gilbert Brutus).

Come Dine with Me – Meal you'd make & three guests?

Adam Sandler for comedy value, Margot Robbie to look at and bit of education from Mark Labbett from The Chase. Starter prawn and chorizo fried in garlic oil, main would be a chicken stir fry - something simple! Dessert would be jam roly poly and custard.

Best RL Moment?

Winning 2015 Championship Shield with Fev



Bradley Knowles

Number: 11
Position: Forward

Height: 6ft 2'
Weight: 97kg

Twitter:

City Break or Beach?

Beach Holiday, every day of the week!

Best Trainer?

Ryan Millar

Worst Dressed?

Oliver Davies because of his awful trainer choices! [+ Two sizes too big]

Lagging Behind?

Everyone doesn't like training, but I'd say slowest (in the head) would be Beans - thick as pig muck!

Amateur Club?

Frystan Warriors / Cas Lock Lane

TODAY'S TEAMS



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

	T	G	DG
1. Josh Guzdek	●	●	●
2. Ryan Millar	●	●	●
4. Jason Crookes	●	●	●
5. Ben Blackmore	●	●	●
6. Pat Walker	●	●	●
7. Anthony Thackeray	●	●	●
8. Pat Moran	●	●	●
9. James Davey	●	●	●
10. Matt James	●	●	●
11. Brad Knowles	●	●	●
12. Joel Farrell	●	●	●
13. Aaron Brown	●	●	●
14. Greg Burns	●	●	●
15. Oliver Davies	●	●	●
16. Corey Makelim	●	●	●
17. Shaun Pick	●	●	●
18. James Glover	●	●	●
19. Sonny Esselmont	●	●	●
21. Blake Broadbent	●	●	●
22. Paddy Burns	●	●	●
23. Rory Dixon	●	●	●
25. Lewis Taylor	●	●	●
26. Joslin Landu	●	●	●
29. Ben Hellewell	●	●	●
31. Nathan Mason	●	●	●

Referee: M. Mannfield

Touch Judges: A. Sweet & N. Bennett

LEIGH CENTURIONS

T G DG

●	●	●	1. Gregg McNally
●	●	●	2. Jonny Pownall
●	●	●	3. Iain Thornley
●	●	●	4. Jack Higginson
●	●	●	5. Stefan Marsh
●	●	●	6. Martyn Ridyard
●	●	●	7. Josh Woods
●	●	●	8. Tom Spencer
●	●	●	9. Micky Higham
●	●	●	10. Sam Brooks
●	●	●	11. Toby Adamson
●	●	●	12. Andrew Thornley
●	●	●	13. Luke Adamson
●	●	●	14. Oliver Russell
●	●	●	15. Joe Cator
●	●	●	16. Andy Bracek
●	●	●	17. Nick Gregson
●	●	●	19. Mitch Cox
●	●	●	20. Ben Sims
●	●	●	21. Brad Holroyd
●	●	●	23. Luke Douglas
●	●	●	24. Gareth Hock
●	●	●	25. Liam Forsyth
●	●	●	27. Liam Hood
●	●	●	28 James Laithwaite

Match Commissioner: P. Hewitt

Time Keeper: S. Williams



ROCHDALE HORNETS

21/06/19

Sheffield Eagles completed a league double over basement club Rochdale Hornets as Mark Aston's men triumphed 46-24 at the Olympic Legacy Park on Friday night.

Ryan Millar and James Meadows starred for the Red and Golds, with a hat-trick and brace of tries respectively.

It was another good outing for Warrington loanee Pat Moran, who continued his rich vein of form with yet another try.

The Hornets came into the contest after a battering against York and coach Matt Calland will have been looking for a positive response.

Inside the first five minutes, Rochdale had broken the deadlock thanks to the impressive Dan Abram. He converted his own score.

In the next set, Meadows stopped a break downfield illegally and was sin-binned.

But despite the numerical disadvantage, the Eagles pulled level thanks to Millar's first try of the game. Patch Walker added the extras.

Oliver Davies and Callum Marriott exchanged tries but Walker's missed conversion was capitalised on by Abram, who goaled to give Rochdale the lead for a second time.

Moments before the half-time hooter, Meadows touched down from

an Anthony Thackeray grubber. Walker converted for 16-12 at the break.

Thackeray and Millar were quick off the mark after the restart as they both crossed for a try apiece as the Eagles looked to run away with the contest.

However, Rochdale weren't going away and Brandon Wood touched down in the corner to cut the deficit. Abram added the goal to make it 28-18.

Three Eagles tries in the final quarter saw the South Yorkshire club end the game well.

Meadows, Millar and Moran were the try-scorers while Marriott completed his brace for the visitors.



MATCH REPORT

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

18-38

**ROCHDALE
HORNETS**

- 1. Josh Guzdek
- 2. Ryan Millar
- 27. Jacob Ogden
- 4. Jason Crookes
- 5. Ben Blackmore
- 32. James Meadows
- 6. Pat Walker
- 8. Pat Moran
- 9. James Davey
- 11. Bradley Knowles
- 12. Joel Farrell
- 15. Oliver Davies
- 13. Aaron Brown



INTERCHANGE

- 17. Shaun Pick
- 22. Patrick Burns
- 7. Anthony Thackeray
- 21. Blake Broadbent



INTERCHANGE

- 12. Ellis Gillam
- 28. Aidan Gleeson
- 30. Adam Lawton
- 14. Lewis Sheridan

DONCASTER RLFC

26/06/19

Sheffield Eagles booked their place in the semi-finals of the AB Sundecks 1895 Cup with a dramatic 32-28 win over Doncaster at Featherstone Rovers' LD Nutrition Stadium.

Anthony Thackeray's last-minute try broke Donny hearts after the League 1 club showed their class for an hour of the match. The Eagles were 28-12 down with 20 minutes to go but a late rally saw them steal victory from the jaws of defeat. It took three minutes for the hosts to open the scoring after they had won a penalty on halfway. Sam Doherty had acres of space on the wing and he dived over. Matty Beharrell converted.

The Eagles bounced back well with two tries in four minutes. The first came courtesy of Jacob Ogden who got on the end of a Josh Guzdek grubber. Pat Walker converted. Shortly after, Thackeray played Dixon through a gap and the prop had too much strength for the full-back. Once again, Walker goaled.

On 22 minutes, the hosts were level after an offload left three Eagles defenders on the ground and the defence was at breaking point. A quick play the ball helped Doncaster and Jez Litten touched down. Beharrell was on target for the second time. Two try-saving tackles in as many minutes from Ryan Millar should have given the Eagles some warning about the threat Doncaster posed.

A penalty was given to the Dons close to the Eagles line and despite having the Championship side rattled, they opted for the two and Beharrell duly obliged. Three minutes remained of the half and Doncaster added another penalty goal to their tally as they went into the sheds 16-12 up. As the final quarter approached, Doncaster put their foot on the gas and looked to have killed the game as a contest.

Another dummy from Litten opened up the



Eagles defence and he had too much speed to be stopped. Beharrell converted, as he did on 57 minutes following his own four-pointer. Richard Horne's side also had an opportunity to put three converted scores between the teams but Beharrell's 45m penalty attempt landed just short.

Nobody could have envisaged how big that miss was going to be. With 15 minutes to go, Millar got the try he thoroughly deserved after being the standout for the visitors. Walker couldn't convert. On 69 minutes, the Eagles showed their expansive quality which led to Guzdek racing over. Walker was on target, this time. Shortly after, Thackeray's kick over the top of the Doncaster defence landed in the arms of Jason Crookes for a simple finish. If Walker's conversion attempt had been successful, it would have been a level game but instead it drifted wide and the Eagles had more work to do.

After that terrific seven-minute spell, the Eagles waited another seven minutes to land the killer blow. With just under 20 seconds to go, Thackeray played Oliver Davies through and the forward offloaded to Guzdek who chucked a ball backwards to the scrum-half who had a free run to the line. Walker converted as Mark Aston's men completed a quite remarkable comeback.

MATCH REPORT

**DONCASTER
RLFC**

28-32

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

Jordan Howden

Sam Doherty

Connor Bower

Jason Tali

Lawton

Daniel Washbrook

Matt Beharrell

Levy Nzoungou

Kyle Kesik

Russell Spiers

Evan Hodgson,

Jordan Lane

Jordie Hedges

INTERCHANGE

Connor Scott

Stef Bastas

Jez Litten

Ryan Boyle



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LD NUTRITION STADIUM



**ATTENDANCE
TBC**



1. *Josh Guzdek*
2. *Ryan Millar*
27. *Jacob Ogden*
4. *Jason Crookes*
5. *Ben Blackmore*
6. *Patch Walker*
7. *Anthony Thackeray*
23. *Rory Dixon*
16. *Corey Makelima*
17. *Shaun Pick*
19. *Sonny Esslemont*
12. *Joel Farrell*
22. *Paddy Burns*

INTERCHANGE

13. *Aaron Brown*
21. *Blake Broadbent*
15. *Oliver Davies*
29. *James Thornton*

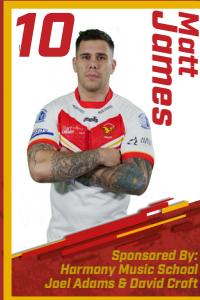


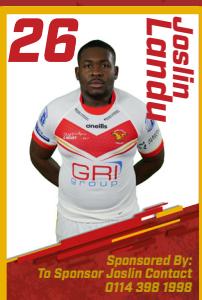
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VIEW FROM THE PARK



Well if this is anything like the game at the Leigh Sports Village, one thing is for certain – I'll have no finger nails left!

I've not seen such a wacky game of rugby league since probably the 60-40 win over Featherstone in 2012. Unfortunately the result didn't go our way at the LSV.

Despite some fluent attacking play, a late rally from the Centurions gave them the victory and since then John Duffy's side have been in fine form and look like a real promotion contender.

In their last game, they battered Dewsbury Rams at the Tetley's Stadium and they haven't put a foot wrong since. I am writing this in the lead-up to the 1895 Cup quarter-final and they may well be a game from Wembley when you read this.

Things have been looking up for the Leythers and on a surface like the OLP, they will fancy their chances of putting up a big score.

It will be up to the Eagles to prove some of their doubters wrong after a number of indifferent performances over the last month or so.

But two wins on the bounce over Batley and Rochdale, putting up 100 points in the process, has got the South Yorkshire club back on track and heading in the right direction.

I mean no disrespect to the Bulldogs and Hornets when I say that the challenge of Leigh is an altogether different prospect. Their forward pack is solid, their backs are nifty and they have great creativity in the halves. Duffy has got a great squad together at the LSV and their league position is no lie.

In a very competitive division, they have stood out in recent months – similar to how the Eagles started their campaign and it will take a good team to take them down.

We do know that the Eagles have quality in their locker and with reinforcements from London Broncos, they are certainly a stronger proposition.

James Meadows and Jacob Ogden have got better with more game time while Ben Hellewell has impressed when called upon.

It will be interesting to see how today plays out but rest assured there will be brilliant rugby on show!

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CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Just recently comedian Andy Parsons was filmed in a shopping mall just sitting down in a seating area starting a conversation with a total stranger. You can see the clip on You Tube entitled 'Let's Talk More – Together we can end Loneliness'.

It is interesting to see people's reactions, especially when they see he's really interested in them and wants to have a conversation with them.

How often do you and I take a few moments in our busy lives and just stop and talk to one another? Obviously not many of us as it is estimated that over nine million people in the UK are lonely.

'The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.' Mother Teresa

How often do we see people sat together on a Bus, in a café, pub or restaurant and rather than talk to one another are staring at their phone. Joanne Harris suggests 'Online communities are an expression of loneliness'.

Most of us have and do feel lonely and isolated at some time in our life. We long for someone who will listen to us ramble on about how we are and what may be going on in our lives.

Loneliness can affect people of all ages. As Thomas Wolfe says 'Loneliness is and always has been the central and inevitable experience of every man.'

On the other hand, no doubt we have all experienced what it's like and how we feel when someone takes the time to ask 'How are you, or how are things'? It is very interesting to watch how Andy Parsons creates a conversation with a total stranger and in just a few short minutes gets other folk talking to one another who have never met before.

We can all take small steps in changing things for ourselves and for others. In 2017 at the Winter Gardens in Sheffield a Talking Bench was installed to encourage people to talk and listen to one another.

The idea came from a Sheffield resident Sharon Tabberer due to her observation of the struggle she saw her father going through in the whole area of starting a conversation as he got older.

The idea is to help reduce loneliness and improve personal connections with different people. Apparently this

has a huge success. Simply, sitting on the bench is an indicator to other passers-by that they would like to have a chat. This idea is wonderful and working and other cities are also allocating 'talking benches.'

Let's remember chat is free. If each one of us just had one short conversation with someone daily we could make a huge difference and begin to make a dent in the nine million lonely people.

Let's talk more....

Enjoy the game





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COMMUNITY GAME

Sheffield Hawks

ARLFC are an amateur rugby league club based in the steel city and this year we celebrate 30 years as a rugby league club having set up in 1989.

We currently have a strong junior set up with teams aged from 4 years old up to U18's as well as running at open age level.

We are currently running teams from Little Hawks (4-7 year olds boys & girls), U9's, U11's, U13's, U15's, U16's, U18's and winter and summer Open Age teams.

We are currently on the lookout for female players wanting to join our brand new Women's Open Age team.

We are proud to run our teams from the Niagara Conference & Leisure Centre based in the heart of Sheffield.

All our junior teams play in the Yorkshire Junior leagues, our Open Age summer team play in the Yorkshire Men's league.

Over the last few seasons we have had former Sheffield Eagles, Wakefield and Fijian international Waisale Sovatabua, Former Sheffield Eagles and Scotland international, Jack Howieson, Sheffield Eagles and PNG international, Menzie Yere and Greek international and current Doncaster RLFC player Stefanos Bastas play for our Open Age team.

We are proud to have the following players currently within semi & professional clubs.

Eddie Battye – London Broncos



Cory Aston – Castleford Tigers

Greg Burns – Sheffield Eagles

Paddy Burns – Sheffield Eagles

Connor Scott – Doncaster RLFC

Dan Hawksworth – Hunslet RLFC

Alex Williams – Keighley Cougars

Reece Williams – Keighley Cougars

Corey Hall – Wigan Warriors

All our teams train at the Niagara Centre on a Tuesday night with Little Hawks up to U16's training from 6pm and U18's and Open Age training from 7pm.

We welcome players to any of our teams so if you are looking to join or your child wants to play then please come down to training or get in touch via our Facebook page by searching for "Sheffieldhawks".

Keep up to date with news and fixtures via our facebook and twitter pages and join in with the conversation.

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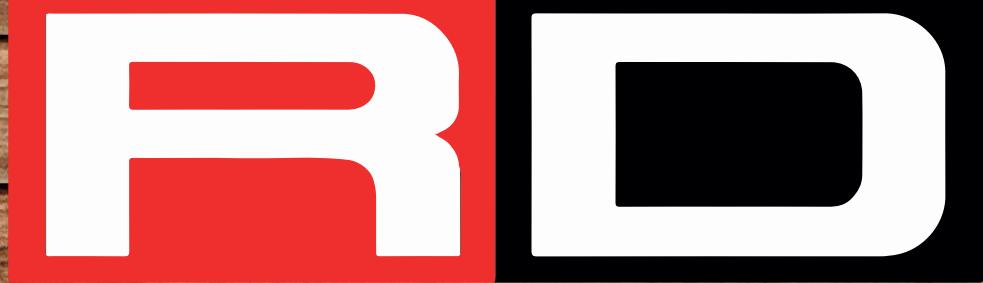
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